Shahjahanpur, Pantnagar, Muzaffarnagar, Seorahi and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh for both varietal improvement and evolving production technologies. Also a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping system (SUBACAS) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Govt. of India) is in operation.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.

Amendment in the Cooperative Societies Act

316. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering, bringing amendment to the Cooperative Societies Act;

(b) whether Government are considering, bringing a uniform Cooperative Societies Act in the contry for the growth of cooperative movement in the country; and

(c) the reason for the delay in bringing the amendment to the cooperative Societies Act inspite of the assurance given to Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A proposal is under consideration of the Government to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to enact a uniform legislation on cooperative Societies for the growth of Cooperative movement in the country.

All procedural formalities need to be completed before the amendment to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act could be conisdered for implementation.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारण हुई क्षति का आकलन करने के लिए समिति का दौरा

317. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1995-96 में हिमाचल प्रदेश में बाढ़ एवं प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारण हुई क्षति का आकलन करने के लिए कृषि विभाग के संयुक्त निदेशक श्री सुनील सूद की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति ने शिमला, कुल्लू और मनाली इत्यादि स्थानों का दौरा किया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस समिति ने इस आपदा से निपटने के लिए कितनी धनराशि राज्य को प्रदान किए जाने की अनुशंसा की थी और उक्त समिति की अनुशंसा पर बाढ़ नियंत्रण के प्रयोजनार्थ राज्य सरकार को कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई थी?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार से प्राप्त एक ज्ञापन के उत्तर में कृषि मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव, श्री सुनील सूद के नेतृत्व में एक केन्द्रीय दल ने जनवरी 1997 में हिमाचल प्रदेश का दौरा किया ताकि बाढ़ की स्थिति का अनुमान लगाया जा सके और यह सिफारिश करने पर विचार किया जा सके कि इस आपदा को अत्यंत गंभीर किस्म का माना जा सकता है अथवा नहीं जिससे कि राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत निधि से सहायता देने के बारे में निर्णय लिया जा सके।

(ख) इस दल द्वारा प्रस्तुत की गई रिपोर्ट पर राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत समिति ने विचार किया और यह निर्णय लिया गया कि राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत निधि से इस राज्य को 10.56 करोड़ रुपए की अतिरिक्त सहायता प्रदान की जाए।

Increase Production of Beef and Veal

318. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that beef and veal production has gone up from 70,000 tonnes in 1976 to 12,16,000 tonnes in 1992;

(b) whether this does not reflect the progressive decimation of our cattle

population to the lasting damage of our national economy in general and rural economy in particular;

(c) what percentage of beef and veal is consumed in India and what percentage is exported; and

(d) how much of it, is cow's meat and how much buffaloes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Export of beef & veal is prohibited from India and the beef & veal produced is consumed in the country.

(d) Buffaloes (males & females) meat weighing about 159704 metric tonnes valued at about Rs. 555 crores was exported from India during 1995-96.

Variation in the cost of Eggs

319. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of eggs varies considerably from State to State;

(b) whether Government would take action for fast transportation; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide cold storages etc. for free movements of eggs to stocks at different States to meet shortages leading to increase in cost of eggs as essential item for growth of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the existing modes of transport viz. air, rail and road are available for the transportation of eggs.

(c) There is no specific Central Scheme for establishing cold storages. However, the existing cold storage facilities both under the public and private sector organisations can be utilised for storage of eggs, as and when required.

Cotton Production

320. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the expected cotton production for the new season;

(b) whether farmers in some areas are shifting from cotton to other commercial crops; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and measures proposed to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The estimates of cotton production for the year 1997-98 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the information received so far, 69 percent of the normal area under cotton has been covered and the showing of crop is still continuing in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The condition of the standing crop is reporting to be satisfactory.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The area under cotton in the country has been continuously increasing since 1993-94. It reached a record level of 91.66 lakh hectares during 1996-97. The area coverage under cotton has also generally been increasing in the major cotton growing States of the country.

बाढ़ राहत के लिए गुजरात को केन्द्रीय सहायता

321. **श्री अहमद पटेल:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में गुजरात में भारी वर्षा एवं बाढ़ के कारण जान-माल की काफी क्षति हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;